

ECONOMIC GROWTH, AGRICULTURE AND TRADE

Fish Return to Indonesian Reefs



Coastal Resources Center, University of Rhode Island

A villager in the Minahasa district participates in reef cleanup following an infestation of crown-of-thorns starfish. When a reef ecosystem gets out of balance, unchecked growth of starfish causes loss of live coral at an unsustainable rate. Then reef cleanups are critical—especially in areas where humans depend on marine resources for their food and livelihood. The community-based coastal zone management in North Sulawesi is boosting coral cover and fish populations.

Fishermen no longer use bombs to kill fish on the fragile coral reefs in the villages of Tumbak and Blongko in North Sulawesi, Indonesia, thanks to U.S. development programs that taught them how to better manage their resources.

"I haven't heard any bomb fishing for almost a year now," one fisherman said. "It used to be you heard it every day."

A community-based marine protected area was established three years ago in the two villages of North Sulawesi. Since then, a spearfisher said, "catches have increased from 5 kilograms per day to 7.5–10 kilograms per day."

Illegal coral mining is also on the decline. This practice, like bomb fishing, threatened highly productive coral reefs.

As a result of the end of bomb fishing, monitoring studies begun in 2000 show that coral cover is increasing and fish populations are recovering.

More than 1 billion people in Asia rely on healthy and productive marine ecosystems for their food and livelihoods. By managing their abundant coastal seas, Indonesian villagers and government officials are learning that they stand a better chance of preventing overharvesting and ending other destructive practices.

Decentralization is transferring marine stewardship to provinces and districts in Indonesia. As a result, the Coastal Resources Management Program supported by USAID works at the local level. Four villages in the Minahasa district of the North Sulawesi region serve as models. USAID is now helping an additional 24 neighboring villages to follow

their lead in establishing marine protected areas.

The Minahasa district passed Indonesia's first-ever district coastal law in 2002, requiring community-based management: decisions about resources must be made publicly and with input from the community.

The Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries predicts that another 16 districts will pass coastal management laws based on the Minahasa model.

The new national coastal policy draft legislation, which supports decentralized coastal management, reflects the more open political process in Indonesia in recent years. It was drawn up with input from local officials, NGOs, and the private sector.

One lesson USAID has learned is that alternative income is an essential ingredient for successful conservation. The village of Blongko collects enforcement fines to maintain the sanctuary and support economic development. In Talise, residents are diversifying household income by planting vegetables and planning ecotours to capitalize on the outstanding biodiversity that exists in the coral reefs and the upland forest areas.

Since 1997, USAID has supported the Coastal Resources Management Program, which operates in East Africa, Latin America, and the western Pacific. ★

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By Richard Volk, USAID/EGAT/Natural Resources Management.

GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

U.S. Immigrants Fuel Development

USAID will help immigrant groups in the United States target their remittances to their countries of origin for the support of local economic development projects. The Agency will work with the Pan American Development Foundation (PADF) on the effort.

In the last few years, development professionals paid more attention to the large volume of remittances sent by ethnic diasporas. Because people from developing countries have been moving to the United States in increasing numbers, more monetary support will continue to be sent.

USAID and other development agencies have concluded that they can assist immigrants providing remittances by using market-based mechanisms to reduce the cost of sending remittances, and by working with hometown associations to channel remittances to specific development projects.

Personal remittances from immigrants in the United States to the developing world reached \$18 billion in 2000. Latin America received the lion's share: \$14.5 billion. Such remittances account for 10 percent or more of the annual income of several Latin American and Caribbean countries.

While most remittances go to family members, a growing number of hometown associations are pooling these resources to use in development projects—such as building schools, funding scholarships, and improving roads and sanitation.

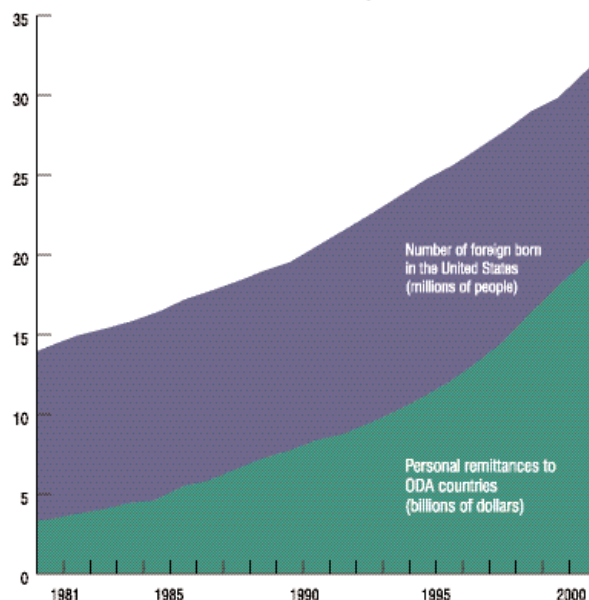
USAID is helping hometown associations carry out economic development activities in Haiti, El Salvador, and Mexico. USAID will provide \$300,000, while hometown associations will add \$154,000 raised through member contributions. While the leveraging in this alliance is not as robust as in most, this pilot activity represents a promising model.

The associations and PADF will work with local NGOs and private sector organizations on economic development projects. For example:

- ◆ In Haiti, revenue-generating and environmentally friendly fruit trees will be purchased and planted in Jacmel.
- ◆ In El Salvador, cooperatives will receive assistance to produce, process, and market fruit for local and export markets.
- ◆ In Mexico, partners will produce, process, and market nopal (an edible cactus) and other agricultural products.

According to Jeremy Smith, Microfinance Officer at USAID/Mexico, "Remittances offer a new and promising development model, since the projects they support are typically located in the poorest and most isolated regions in a given country." Smith added that remittances are often the most important assets in such communities. ★

Parallel Trends in Number of Foreign Born and Remittances



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, INS, and U.S. Census Bureau